

Tempe Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Second Draft

January 23, 2001

Vision Statement and Overall Goal

Vision Statement

Tempe... a vibrant city, with a safe, efficient, and balanced transportation system that provides mobility for all, promotes clean air, conserves energy, preserves neighborhood livability, and enhances the quality of life for our citizens and guests.

Overall Goal

In keeping with the City's mission to make Tempe the best place to live, work, and play, the Comprehensive Transportation Plan will integrate with land use policy to ensure that a safe, efficient, and balanced transportation system is developed to serve Tempe now and in the future.

Measures of Success

The Tempe Comprehensive Transportation Plan will be a success when:

- The rate of single occupant vehicle miles traveled per capita within Tempe is at least reduced 20 percent by 2025.
- Transit trips as a percentage of all trips within Tempe at least double by 2025.
- All Tempe residents have access to fast and frequent (10 to 15-minute) transit service within a 5-to 10-minute walk of their home.
- One third of attendees use transit, bike, or walk to special events in Tempe.
- All Tempe neighborhoods have safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian access to neighborhood schools, parks, shopping, and transit.
- Air quality "hot spots" are eliminated within Tempe, and the City contributes to bringing overall regional air quality within attainment standards.
- Transportation improvements needed to implement Neighborhood Plans are in place by 2025.
- The majority of Tempe residents feel that their community has an excellent transportation system that contributes to making Tempe the best place to live, work and play.

- All City codes and ordinances work together to balance transportation and land use enhancing the quality of life in Tempe and supporting appropriate or sustainable economic development.
- A complete one-mile bikeway grid system is created.
- Connectivity of the regional transit network improves so that Tempe's citizens can get where they want to go.

Objectives and Implementation Strategies

Overarching Objectives and Implementation Strategies

- Develop a functional relationship between the diversity of land uses in Tempe and the transportation systems that serve them.
- Identify strategies for strengthening cooperative land use and transportation planning and design efforts between the City of Tempe, Arizona State University, and other public and private stakeholders.
- Continue to actively involve neighborhood and community representatives in on-going planning and design of transportation systems, facilities, and services.
- Work to ensure that transportation solutions preserve and enhance Tempe's neighborhoods.
- Coordinate Comprehensive Transportation Plan development with Tempe's ordinances and relevant codes to maximize consistency with City goals.
- Incorporate the provisions of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan as the Transportation Element of the General Plan.
- Establish a strong visual identity and aesthetic for Tempe, its gateway entrances, and its neighborhoods.
- Coordinate with police and law enforcement entities to develop programs that heighten the community's awareness and compliance with traffic safety regulations.

Streets and Travelways Element

- Create a travel demand model to measure street and travelway performance.
- Balance appropriate traffic capacity with the goal of reducing reliance on the single-occupancy automobile and promoting alternative travel modes.
- Develop design guidelines for arterial and collector streets to calm traffic, meet the needs of each mode of travel, and recognize that, on certain streets, alternate modes may predominate.
- Develop and implement projects that offer and promote alternative transportation choices (walking, bicycling, mass transit) within the street network of Tempe.

- Enhance the strong visual identity and aesthetic of Tempe, its gateway entrances, and its neighborhoods.
- Continually investigate new and emerging transportation technologies for use in Tempe street and transit design and operation.
- Coordinate with emergency services, police, and fire representatives to ensure that proposed transportation improvements maintain our high level of emergency response.
- Increase street tree plantings and landscaping in medians and along arterials to calm traffic, soften the effects of arterial streets, mitigate heat and climate conditions, and where appropriate, provide separation between pedestrians and other modes of transportation.
- Work with neighborhoods to minimize negative transportation impacts.
- Develop a diverse range of street classifications for arterials that allow arterials to serve varying functions, recognizing that some arterial streets need to be better suited to serve pedestrians and alternative transportation modes than others.

Transit Element

- Integrate the existing transit plan into the Comprehensive Transportation Plan as the Transit Element to ensure that the planned system can accommodate the ridership levels identified for overall plan success.
- Review and update the existing transit plan to ensure that fast and frequent transit service is provided, with stops at 10 to 15 minute intervals, located within a 5 to 10 minute walk of all Tempe residents.
- Develop improvements to ensure that pedestrian access ways to transit are safe and secure and convenient to use, including continuous sidewalks, mid-block and intersection crossing improvements, signs, pedestrian scale lighting, and other features.
- Review and update the existing transit plan to ensure that special event loadings identified for overall plan success can be accommodated.
- Coordinate land use planning efforts to promote transit-oriented development and enhance access to transit throughout the City.
- Integrate Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies into transit system plans and services.
- Consider program improvements to increase the ease of purchasing passes and other incentives to increase transit ridership, including increased transit use to get to and from special events in Tempe.
- Ensure that ongoing planning and design efforts meld effectively with other modes of travel (park and ride centers, etc).

Parking and Access Management Element

- Recognize that the availability of parking as a major element affecting choice of transportation mode.
- Establish minimum and maximum parking regulations consistent with the targeted mode split.
- Work with the Downtown Tempe Community (DTC) and others to update the Downtown Parking Management Program to reflect anticipated demand and to support automobile, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian goals.
- Strengthen access management regulations, design standards, and review processes for arterial and collector streets, including driveway spacing and design, cross-access easements, shared parking, and pedestrian access to parking.
- Consider the potential to introduce parking management districts as an outcome of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan development.
- Analyze alternatives to "pay for parking" on streets, such as parallel parking on streets that is free and timed for various time periods associated with the adjacent uses. Explore street parking management options and investigate alternatives to diagonal street parking, particularly on bike routes.

Pedestrian Element

- Evaluate the sidewalk system and pedestrian network to assess adequacy, and recommend specific improvements to increase pedestrian travel.
- Develop a pedestrian network plan that identifies and prioritizes improvements, eliminating gaps and deficiencies in the existing system and encouraging increased pedestrian travel.
- Develop and implement pedestrian-oriented overlay district provisions.
- Create and implement pedestrian design guidelines to require pedestrian friendly design practices on all types of streets and adjacent developments.
- Include provisions in the design guidelines that raise awareness about the characteristics and needs of pedestrians, including accessibility goals beyond compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Include provisions in the design guidelines that increase pedestrian safety and security.
- Include provisions in the design guidelines that enhance the pedestrian environment and create an engaging and interesting experience for pedestrians.
- Develop public education and outreach techniques to promote pedestrian safety and compliance with pedestrian-related laws and regulations.
- Encourage planning that provides a diversity of land uses (employment, businesses, services, parks, schools) within a 5 to 10 minute walk for most Tempe residents. Encourage development patterns and site design configurations that maximize pedestrian access and

circulation.

- Develop provisions for crosswalk improvements that enhance safety and security, including improvements at mid-block and intersection locations. Include median refuges and other improvements to minimize crossing distances.
- Improve accessibility to bus stops on the opposite sides of the street.

Bicycle Element

- Encourage the use of the bicycle as an important part of the overall transportation system, eliminating gaps and deficiencies in the existing system, and creating a complete and continuous bikeway network.
- Review the bicycle plan to ensure that the plan provides safe and convenient access from neighborhoods to schools, parks, shopping, transit, employment, and other destinations identified by neighborhoods.
- Develop design standards that require long-term bicycle parking and facilities (showers, etc.) for bicycle commuters in office, institutional, commercial, and multi-family housing properties.
- Improve the bikeway system in Tempe to ensure that the travel network and facilities will accommodate all types of bicyclists, including: bicycle commuters and daily destination bound riders, and recreational bicyclists.
- Coordinate with regional bikeway planning efforts to ensure that routes connect with those of neighboring communities and that Tempe's system is an integral part of the overall region wide system.
- Ensure that streets classifications and street design provisions create a bicycle friendly street network, and that the street hierarchy adequately serves all modes of travel in Tempe, including bicycle travel as a predominant mode on some streets.
- Consider the use of intermediate streets (Between one-mile-grid arterials) for major bicycle/pedestrian corridors. Also consider the use of alleys and other linear corridors for bicycle and pedestrian travel.

Relationship to Land Use and Neighborhoods Element

- Create pedestrian overlay districts with design guidelines and policies to encourage increased pedestrian travel through an appropriate mix of land uses, building orientation, parking supply and location, and access to transit.
- Coordinate local land use and transportation decisions with regional plans and policies.
- Create mixed-use development patterns that increase pedestrian travel, especially in the Downtown and other special districts.
- Develop viable land uses that are supported by the community, including transit oriented

development and development patterns where pedestrian and transit access are priority transportation modes.

Public Art in Transportation Element

- Create an integral process for involving artists and incorporating art in Tempe transportation projects.
- Involve neighborhoods, schools, and other stakeholders in public art projects.
- Investigate and develop how new projects and programs for public art could be added in Tempe.
- Recognize that all forms of art and creative expression can play a meaningful role in transportation projects and in problem solving of transportation issues.
- Create a process for Tempe's involvement and participation in regional projects.
- Continue to establish a strong visual identity and aesthetic for Tempe, its gateway entrances, and its neighborhoods.